THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Woollen Mills in Rajasthan

1090. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of woollen mills in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government proposed to set up more woollen mills in the public/joint sector in that State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The total number of woollen Mills in Rajasthan is 62 (Sixty two).

(b) There is no proposal before the Central Government to set up woollen mills in the public/joint sector in the State of Rajasthan.

(c) Does not arise.

Rubber Park in Kerala

1091. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rubber Board has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for starting 'Rubber Park' in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the above proposal stands at present;

(c) whether land is available in Airapuram near Muvattupuzha in Kerala for this purpose; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) The Rubber Board has prepared a scheme to set up a Rubber Park in Kerala in association with Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation which will facilitate establishment of rubber and rubber wood based industries. The scheme envisages setting up the Rubber Park tentatively at Irapuram, Kerala, at an estimated investment of Rs. 36.61 crore. About 100 acres of land are proposed to be developed with adequate infrastructure facility for establishing about 60 industrial units. Inter Ministerial consultations for according investment approval to the proposal is in hand.

DGS&D Rate Contract Mandatory for all Ministries/Departments

1092. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is mandatory for all Central Government Ministries/Departments to operate rate contract concluded by DGS&D;

(b) if so, the details of notification thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the purpose to form DGS&D;

(d) whether Air Headquarters has concluded its own rate contract for gases while the same contract has been concluded by DGS&D; and

(e) if so, the reasons for why it was concluded the rate contract at higher rates by Air Headquarters for the same items where DGS&D rate contract was concluded at cheaper rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) As per allocation of Business Rules, 1961 (as amended from time to time) the Department of Supply in the Ministry of Commerce is the nodal Department for the purchase and the inspection of the stores required by the Ministries/Departments and Offices of the Central Government. The Central Purchase Organisation i.e. DGS&D concludes rate contracts with eligible firms for procurement of various items of common use required by Ministries/Departments & offices of Central Government. The Central Government Ministries/ Departments are required to make purchase of items, covered by DGS&D rate contracts, against these rate contracts where the value of purchase exceeds their delegated powers of direct purchase which are presently Rs. 20,000/- at a time and Rs. 1 Lakh aggregate in a year.

(d) Air Headquarters have concluded contract for the gases which are specific to the requirement of their services i.e. Oxygen Gas for breathing purposes. DGS&D has not concluded any Rate Contract for the gas. R/C concluded by DGS&D are for industrial purposes.

(e) Comparison of prices does not arise as items available on rate contract with Air Hqrs. and DGS&D are different.

Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd.

1093. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of sales turnover achieved by the Bharat Leather Corporation Ltd. during each of the last three years;